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Item 61 (b) of the preliminary list*

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: TRANSPARENCY IN ARMAMENTS

Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/51/50.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1994, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/66, entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures". In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and to submit a report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

2. In response to his note verbale of 25 January 1996, the Secretary-General has to date received the reply which is reproduced in section II below. Should the Secretary-General receive further replies from Member States, they will appear in addenda to the present report.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ITALY*

[Original: English]

[28 May 1996]

1. The members of the European Union have supported the consensus on General Assembly resolution 49/66. We wish to provide the following common reply to paragraph 4 requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the subject taking into account the views of Member States.

2. The European Union continues to attach high importance to the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures as instituted through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980. Regrettably, although this measure of transparency and confidence-building has been in effect for about 15 years, the participation of States Members of the United Nations in 1995 barely exceeded 20 and is thus very low.

3. In our view, such a low participation is a cause for concern and indicates that the request to report military expenditures does not have sufficient acceptance by the community of Member States. As a first step, Member States should be called upon again to fully participate in this reporting. The European Union stands ready to encourage countries which have not yet done so, to do so.

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* On behalf of the European Union and of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with it (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia) as well as of the associated countries Cyprus and Malta.

4. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the reporting on military expenditures, information should be sought on Member States' possible problems with the reporting and their reasons for not submitting the required data, so that appropriate changes could be considered to render this instrument more effective.

5. In particular, the structure of the standardized reporting system, which dates back to 1980, may have to be modified and adapted to today's requirements, taking into account, inter alia, structures of reporting systems on military expenditures that have been developed in other contexts.

6. To this end and in the interests of efficiency, the group of governmental experts meeting to discuss the development and expansion of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms which is expected to be convened by the Secretary-General in 1997 should also be mandated to prepare, in time for deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, a report on necessary changes to the content and the structure of the reporting system to cope with the new challenges to international security since the implementation of resolution 35/142. In its deliberations on the enhancement of the reporting system, the group of experts should, inter alia, draw upon preparatory work on this issue undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs during the past several years.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The advancement of women through and in the programmes of the United Nations system: What happens after the Fourth World Conference on Women?" (A/50/509).

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

I. GENERAL

1. The positive tone of the report (A/50/509) is welcomed. It offers a clear, accurate and balanced analysis of, and forthright information on, the present situation, as well as of many of the obstacles that still need to be addressed by the United Nations system.

2. While specific follow-up to the implementation of the report's recommendations was considered necessary, the mechanisms for their implementation and indicators for measuring progress would need to be discussed in more detail. As the report points out, there is a need for such information exchanges on successes and failures and on methodologies used and experience gained in bringing about change. The report's assessment of the current situation with regard to programmatic and resources aspects, as well as commitment to women's and gender responsive programmes, provides a good point of departure for future action.

3. One of the key points made in the report (A/50/509, para. 15) that deserves emphasis is:

> "... substantive women's programmes and women's status issues are intertwined ... substantive gender programmes will be stronger, better applied, and better understood if they are led and implemented by both men and women, especially at top management and programme management levels. Conversely, women's status and career advancement in an organization should be facilitated if that organization is already gender-aware and gender-oriented in its substantive programmes."

4. Through the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ), the organizations have also acknowledged, as it was done in the report, that it is time to move beyond rhetoric and policy statements; many of the concrete, results-oriented actions called for in the report have already been embarked upon by CCAQ and others are being taken by individual organizations. However, the capacity of human resources departments to undertake new or enhanced initiatives is constrained now more than ever by the severe financial situation, which often is more greatly felt at the administrative level. For example, during the biennium 1996-1997 the personnel department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will be reduced by approximately one third and the Office of Human Resources Management of the United Nations Secretariat has been reduced by some 16 per cent within the past two years.

5. Recognition is rightly given throughout the report to enhancing performance management and to holding managers accountable, but as the report correctly emphasizes, policies and strategies must be properly communicated and the organizational culture must be transformed (para. 34). Human resource

development and training programmes must therefore be appropriately equipped in terms of financial and human resources to deliver these programmes.

6. Concerning the issue of increased accountability for management, CCAQ recalled at its eighty-second session that management competencies should be introduced as part of an integrated human resource strategy if organizations were to succeed in their bid to improve organizational performance. A prototype management competency framework and guidelines for performance appraisal have been made available to all organizations of the common system. It is especially noteworthy that the competency "integrity and international outlook", inter alia, includes the performance indicator "freedom from prejudice or bias regarding race, creed or gender".

7. Although the report's recognition that resources allocated for gender mainstreaming and women-targeted activities must match the size of the programme, many organizations and agencies found the report to be too "headquarters-centred", with insufficient attention to the particular challenges faced by operational entities at the country level. The role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in supporting coordination of gender responsive programming at the country level needed to be emphasized.

8. The recognition given in the report to the responsibilities of governing bodies and Member States is also welcome (sect. III.8). Indeed, it was recognized earlier, in a report of 24 February 1992 on the status of women, including special measures for their recruitment, of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), that the United Nations system could not do more than reflect the world community. Until such time as women participate in sufficient numbers in all disciplines and in decision-making positions at the national levels and as representatives in governmental and non-governmental bodies, organizations' efforts to bring about a more equitable representation of women in their secretariats will require intense efforts. Member States' responsibility in upholding the policy by placing gender balance on an equal footing with geographic distribution would also be a propelling force.

II. COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1 (b)

9. At its nineteenth session in January 1996, the CCAQ Subcommittee on Staff Training discussed trends and developments in staff training in gender-related issues and found that staff training programmes tended to be impeded by limited resources.

10. In developing his human resources management strategy, the Secretary-General made a deliberate effort to integrate the objectives set for the advancement of women into the new management culture envisaged for the Secretariat. To date, 4,500 staff have been trained in the new performance appraisal system (PAS). PAS includes mandatory performance indicators to evaluate the extent to which managers and supervisors achieve gender balance in their immediate office. Gender sensitivity is emphasized in the people

management training programme being required of senior managers Secretariat-wide.

Recommendation 2 (a)

11. Improvements are currently being incorporated into the CCAQ database from which system-wide statistics are derived. In addition, the CCAQ secretariat is now reviewing with organizations the new data elements that could be introduced into the global common system database.

Recommendation 2 (b)

12. A brochure containing the policy statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on the status of women is being published and will be made available to all organizations, including special interest groups (see also comments in para. 9 above concerning staff training efforts).

Recommendation 2 (c)

13. Many recent initiatives target all categories of staff, such as, for example, the ACC policy statements on (a) the work/family agenda for the common system and (b) combatting sexual harassment in the workplace. These have been followed up by a number of initiatives within individual organizations.

Recommendation 2 (d)

14. In 1994, the CCAQ Subcommittee on Staff Training developed two videos and a training manual for staff training in this area.

15. In January 1995, a joint staff-management task force began examining the effectiveness of the Organization's policies and procedures established in October 1992 to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace. In June 1995, the Staff Management Coordination Committee agreed to a task force proposal to survey United Nations staff in order to gauge the degree to which harassment exists in the United Nations workplace. The survey will be the first of such breadth and scope, making it a benchmark-setting exercise for the United Nations and its family of organizations and agencies. Staff at all duty stations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will be guaranteed anonymity in completing the questionnaire. The survey, which is currently being developed and will be reviewed by a series of departmental focus groups, is scheduled for release in 1996.

Recommendations 2 (e) and (f)

16. The recent ACC policy statement on a work/family agenda for the common system will be published shortly as a brochure and made available to all organizations. In 1995, CCAQ decided that each organization should follow up on this policy with specific organizational policies and guidelines in keeping with each organization's structure and mandate. Other areas to be pursued at the inter-agency level by CCAQ are: proposals for short-term family leave, trends and experiences with flexi-place and current policies regulating salaries and

allowances and other entitlements to ensure that they are designed in a way that responds to family needs and are in step with modern thinking and practice.

Recommendation 2 (g)

17. In 1996, CCAQ intends to review "downsizing" experiences across the common system and to look further into the capacity of human resources departments to develop strategic approaches to downsizing and re-engineering the "human" organization.

Recommendation 2 (h)

18. The CCAQ and the ICSC secretariats are currently working with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which is providing the technical expertise to make the ICSC vacancy announcement bulletin available on the Internet. This will ensure a wider dissemination of vacancies across the organizations of the common system. In 1995, CCAQ also agreed to undertake a study of the feasibility of developing an inter-agency roster of staff members. Both of these undertakings should help to identify a larger pool of potential women candidates for consideration for forthcoming vacancies in organizations.

19. In the area of spouse employment, a number of organizations have already taken steps to remove from their staff rules any impediments to the employment of spouses; others have taken some groundbreaking steps to increase cooperation to facilitate spouse employment. CCAQ has also agreed to pursue and monitor the following approaches: (a) extending the type of cooperation agreement on spouse employment reached by the Rome-based organizations across the common system; and (b) requesting lead organizations at each duty station to review impediments to and explore the possibility for liberalizing policies restricting the employment of domestic partners.

III. OTHER SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Current status, patterns and problems (paras. 24-42)

20. It should be noted that information in paragraph 33 of the report is somewhat misleading in regard to the resource commitments to women-related programming by some organizations and agencies. In the case of UNFPA, more than 50 per cent of resources have been earmarked for the reproductive health/family planning sector. In addition, funds are allocated for specific activities for women. The establishment of the FAO gender unit dates back to 1945, and the unit, which now has 10 Professional officers and the necessary support staff, has been well supported by FAO management for a number of years.

Sound action programmes in each organization (paras. 47-56)

21. Concerning the question of mainstreaming, it is agreed that there is a need to place greater emphasis on mainstreaming and to clarify its conceptual and operational implications. Mainstreaming women's issues into development policies and programmes at the national level, mainstreaming of women's concerns and the raising of gender awareness at recent United Nations conferences and a

wider integration of gender concerns in the work programmes of intergovernmental bodies have been visible examples of what is currently being done. In effect, mainstreaming requires that planners and policy makers incorporate a gender perspective into all of their activities. Such an approach will lead to encouraging further women's empowerment and active involvement in development in general. It should also help to eliminate the pitfalls of a purely women-specific approach, which has often led to (if not perpetuated) marginalization of women's issues. However, mainstreaming does not eliminate the need for targeting.

22. Gender and women's programmes must not be the concern of only a focal point, but must involve top management and be infused in the efforts of all staff in carrying out their work.

Gender training programmes (paras. 57-60)

23. In referring to recent findings, it was proposed that the observations, contained in the report, on the potential impact of gender training could have been slightly more nuanced. Three recent studies a/ suggest that there is very little evidence thus far to demonstrate the positive impact of gender training on organizational behaviour. At the same time, the point, made in paragraph 60 regarding the need to undertake further assessment of results obtained from past efforts in gender training, was well taken.

24. In addition to the information provided in the report on significant progress made in gender training by some organizations, it should be pointed out that experience has clearly shown the need for follow-up to gender training to ensure the translation of skills acquired into action. This applies in particular to operational programmes and country programming. Networking is in place among programme officers and focal points to exchange experience and to share information and expertise. Decentralized management structures and operations make gender orientation for country representatives and senior managers at all levels critical.

25. It should be pointed out that attitudinal and societal change must also take place at the national level. United Nations system initiatives, such as training of trainers, the publication of training manuals and handbooks and the convening of training workshops for government officials, have contributed to a greater understanding and promotion of the integration of a gender perspective into national development processes. Nevertheless, there still is a need for further assessment of the approaches taken to gender training and their impact at various levels.

26. Concerning gender training by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), it should be clarified that the persons INSTRAW has trained are themselves trainers who will continue the training process within their countries, thus establishing a multiplier effect in gender training. INSTRAW and other entities have developed training materials on gender issues.

27. It should also be clarified that, by the end of 1993, FAO had held 43 training workshops for approximately 800 Professional officers, which

comprise approximately 85 per cent of all Professional officers in the organization. This remains the highest percentage within the United Nations system of Professional officers who have received such sensitization training. FAO emphasized that it was continuing to develop collaboratively with ILO and UNDP the innovative programme for gender training known as the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis Programme.

28. It should be noted that the gender training programme of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) was developed in 1992 and is aimed at all UNIDO staff members at headquarters and in the field. A specific training manual has been prepared and is constantly updated and enriched by case-studies developed in the course of the training sessions. The objectives of the training programme are to provide UNIDO staff with a common understanding on gender issues and with practical guidance on how to integrate women and gender issues into their operational work.

29. The report could have benefited from incorporating information about ongoing inter-agency collaboration and networking on training and on the contribution of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy training subgroup to those activities.

Sharpening programme analysis (paras. 61-64)

30. It should be noted that a revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women is being prepared. In this regard, an effort had been made to highlight the particular comparative advantage of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action agreed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20, chap. I). The report's conclusion that there was need for a streamlined, transparent and pragmatic system of monitoring and follow-up to programmes for women is valid. The role of ACC, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in this regard is especially important as a complement to the role of the respective governing bodies of the various entities of the United Nations system.

Regularizing inter-agency meetings (paras. 65-69)

31. The report stresses the contribution made by the ACC Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, held since 1975 in conjunction with the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women and in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat. There is unanimous support for regularizing this Meeting and for the report's conclusion that the meetings provide an irreplaceable opportunity for substantive discussions among agency representatives dealing with women's programming and for developing new initiatives and activities in this regard.

32. The Inter-Agency Meeting provided a unique opportunity for staff at the working level to meet and develop joint activities and inter-agency positions on issues before the Commission on the Status of Women. There is need to strengthen support for these meetings by ACC and the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system.

Assessing and enhancing resources (paras. 70-74)

33. Concerning a system-wide inventory of resources for women's advancement programmes, it should be recalled that the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) (as well as CCAQ(FB) in the past) regularly provides an overview report on the programmes and resources of the United Nations system, which, inter alia, includes programmes on the advancement of women (see E/1995/64, subsectors 173 and 174).

34. While some ACC members agreed with the assessment made in the report concerning the ability - or inability - to give accurate estimates of the resources allocated to programming to benefit women and to gender issues, the hope was expressed that ongoing revision of programme monitoring systems would improve the situation. Difficulties in making such assessments were attributed, inter alia, to the cross-sectoral nature of gender-responsive programming and to the inadequacy of programme monitoring systems to disaggregate allocations and expenditures by gender.

35. The increasing pursuit of gender mainstreaming strategies raises a number of additional methodological problems of calculating spending on programming to advance the status of women. In that regard, it would be unfortunate if mainstreaming were to be used as a cover to avoid committing resources to women in development/gender programmes. More thought should be given to the suitability of existing measurement and tracking systems for expenditures on both gender-responsive programmes and on those that specifically target women. The recommendations made in paragraph 73 of the report would be one approach to addressing this problem, but would require inputs from financial planners and the careful development of a suitable methodology for "unpacking" expenditures that impact on women.

36. In addition to the general assessment of the resources allocated to the advancement of women, a further breakdown should detail allocations to research and training and to operational activities as well as to information and outreach. This would make it possible, in future, to verify, with disaggregated statistics, whether "very few" resources are allocated to women's programmes.

New initiatives: the example of gender statistics (paras. 75-83)

37. ACC appreciates the importance given in the report to the programme on gender statistics and endorses the recommendations made on the programme. At the same time, it should be noted that the report, in its paragraph 87, omits to mention a computerized database operated by FAO, known as the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT), into which gender-disaggregated data is entered.

38. The report's assessment of the significance of the publication and updating of The World's Women is encouraging. However, UNFPA involvement in funding national censuses and ensuring that the data are collected, analysed and disseminated as disaggregated by gender was not reflected in the report. It should also be noted that FAO had contributed to producing The World's Women 1995, particularly in ensuring that rural women were accorded appropriate attention. It is also of relevance that inter-agency follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women offers opportunities for similar efforts in areas

covered by the Platform for Action and the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Women should discuss ways and means of coordinating such inputs in future and make a proposal to ACC in this regard.

Information outreach and quality (paras. 84-93)

39. ACC agrees with the report's analysis of information outreach and quality. The points on electronic information networks are particularly important. There is need for a rational system of collection, organization and dissemination of the varied information on women and gender produced by the United Nations system. Of particular interest is the proposal for the establishment of a joint World Wide Web site aimed at promoting the use of new technologies among women's organizations and improving the outreach of information from the United Nations system on women's advancement. In the initial phase, the emphasis will be on information from the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, INSTRAW and UNIFEM. In a second phase, if resources permit, the project would be extended to the system as a whole.

40. A number of agencies pursued additional information activities, especially the production and dissemination of information in the framework of the Fourth World Conference on Women, including updated bibliographies, videos and films. Efforts will be made to update and complete the selected bibliography presented in annex II to the report, while the resource centre of the Division for the Advancement of Women should continue to be a repository for materials produced by the United Nations system on women and gender issues.

Interaction with non-governmental organizations (paras. 94-99)

41. It is indisputable that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are particularly important in women's programmes. Many United Nations entities have long-standing and close working relationships with NGOs at the country level, as well as with NGOs that are based at the headquarters of the respective agencies. The worldwide network of NGO committees of UNICEF is one example. In response to the International Conference on Population and Development, UNFPA has established an NGO Advisory Committee at the international level to advise the Fund on policy and programming matters, and to promote a more active involvement of NGOs, especially in advocacy. The Division for the Advancement of Women maintains a database of over 2000 NGOs that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and has plans to increase its outreach to this important constituency.

42. In some cases, NGOs carry out projects funded by United Nations agencies and work closely with implementing agencies. They serve as fundraisers and as advocates for United Nations programmes. They also sometimes serve as a link between United Nations agencies and Governments. Likewise, United Nations agencies have also invested in enhancing the capacities and roles of women's groups and of professional associations at the national level, which will be crucial for sustainability of development cooperation.

Governing body support (paras. 100-105)

43. ACC agrees with the report's observations on governing body support. It should be noted that other governing bodies, besides those mentioned in the report, have been very supportive of gender issues. The FAO governing body, the FAO Conference, has given regular and serious attention to the advancement of women through the organization's programmes, including the systematic review of the implementation of the FAO Plan of Action for Women in Development and the adoption of a revised Plan of Action for 1996-2001 by the FAO Conference at its twenty-eighth session in November 1995. The UNICEF Executive Board, at its most recent session in January 1996, considered follow-up proposals to the Fourth World Conference on Women and made specific recommendations to focus, inter alia, on women's human rights.

Notes

a/ "Gender as a cross-cutting theme in development assistance - an evaluation of CIDA's WID policy and activities, 1984-1992", final report of the Audit and Evaluation Division, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), July 1993;

"Gender mainstreaming: a study of efforts by UNDP, the World Bank and ILO to institutionalize gender issues", United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)/UNDP occasional paper No. 4, August 1995;

"Technical assistance and women: from mainstreaming towards institutional accountability", report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/1995/6).

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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: MEASURES TO CURB THE ILLICIT TRANSFER AND USE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1994, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/75 M, entitled "Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms", in paragraph 3 of which it requested the Secretary-General: (a) to seek the views of Member States on effective ways and means of collecting weapons transferred illicitly, in particular in the light of experience gained by the United Nations; and (b) to seek the views of Member States on concrete proposals concerning measures at the national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms.

2. In response to his note verbale of 23 January 1996, the Secretary-General has to date received replies from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Namibia, Poland and Saudi Arabia. The replies are reproduced in section II below. Should the Secretary-General receive further replies from Member States, they will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[20 May 1996]

1. During the Disarmament Commission's 1995 substantive session, Argentina submitted working papers A/CN.10/187 and A/CN.10/188 to the Working Group on international arms transfers with special reference to resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991.

2. Those documents clearly outline the sensitive and military equipment control regime of the Argentine Republic and the views of the Republic concerning the importance of control regimes and of transparency for curbing illicit transfers.

3. Accordingly, on 2 April 1996 Argentina became a full member of the Wassenaar Arrangement, since it supports, agrees with and will be guided by the purposes of that arrangement, namely, the promotion of transparency and greater accountability in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, with a view to preventing the destabilizing stockpiling of weapons and enhancing international security and stability.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[18 March 1996]

Illicit trafficking in light weapons

1. Illicit trafficking in light weapons is a phenomenon that has an impact on the domestic stability of States and on regional conflicts. At a time when the indiscriminate use of light weapons and explosives against innocent people and civilian property is on the increase and when the recipients of such weapons are, above all, persons or groups responsible for criminal, destabilizing activities that violate human rights, such trafficking must be unequivocally condemned and eliminated without delay.

2. As countries which have expressed concern at the violation of human rights, we must bear in mind that illicit arms trafficking, particularly in light weapons, is a major factor in the violation of such rights. Those who buy and sell such arms illicitly have amply demonstrated how little value they attach to the right to life and the right of every human being to live in peace.

3. Obviously, the illicit trade in small arms is continuing. In 1994, the Colombian authorities confiscated 21,775 weapons and 64,183 rounds of ammunition of various calibres in the country. In 1995, a similar number of weapons were seized. Thus far in 1996, just one of the stockpiles discovered by the Colombian authorities could have caused tremendous destruction in the capital city. Although government action to control arms trafficking has achieved significant results, those results show that subversive groups and organized crime still have access to the massive weapons stockpiles that are flooding the international market. Not only have the "merchants of death" opened up new routes for this trade, but they are now supplying weapons and equipment that include the latest innovations in military technology, from modern AUG guns manufactured with synthetic fibres, M-72 LAWS anti-tank missile launchers, M-61 GRAP APERS grenades and plastic dynamite to technology and fissile material for the production of nuclear weapons.

4. Colombia has long believed that the United Nations should play a central role in the process of curbing the proliferation of conventional arms and controlling their transfer. It was this that prompted our country, in 1988, to introduce resolution 43/75 I of 7 December 1988, the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly on arms transfers and illicit arms trafficking.

5. Since then, in its determination to find specific solutions to the problem of illicit arms trafficking, and particularly to the problem of light weapons, Colombia has introduced resolution 46/36 H, adopted by the General Assembly on 6 December 1991, as a result of which the United Nations Disarmament Commission is examining guidelines for the implementation of concrete measures aimed at preventing arms from reaching those who intend to use them to destabilize Governments, foment violence and terrorism and promote trafficking in narcotic drugs, ordinary and organized crime, mercenarism and other criminal activities.

6. Since the adoption of resolution 46/36 H in 1991, many countries have recognized that priority must be given to tackling the arms trade and eradicating illicit arms trafficking. The General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, adopted two resolutions on illicit arms trafficking. In resolution 49/75 G of 15 December 1994, introduced by Mali on behalf of a group of African States, the Assembly expresses grave concern at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in the subregion and invites Member States to implement all necessary measures to check the illicit circulation of such arms and, above all, to curb their illegal import. In resolution 49/75 M of the same date, introduced by Afghanistan and jointly sponsored by other countries, including Colombia, the Assembly stresses the need for effective national control measures in order to prevent illicit transfers, as an important contribution to the relaxation of tension and peaceful reconciliation processes.

7. With these resolutions, as well as resolution 50/70 B, entitled "Small arms", introduced by Japan and adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 1995, the process begun in 1988 has gathered momentum by focusing on light weapons as an important aspect of the problems inherent in arms transfers and illicit arms trafficking.

Eradication of illicit transfers of light weapons

8. There is no need to go into detail about the consequences of the proliferation of light weapons for the peace and stability of many nations and, therefore, for international peace and security. There is a need, however, for States, in particular those which produce and authorize the sale of light weapons, to face up to their responsibilities in this area and to commit their Governments to a policy of strict regulation of the sale, possession, bearing, import and export of such weapons, a policy which would involve both the institutions responsible for monitoring compliance and those responsible for imposing the corresponding penalties for non-compliance.

9. In this context, States, in accordance with the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on illicit arms trafficking (A/46/301), reproduced in resolution 46/36 H, must strive to establish or maintain the legal and administrative institutions responsible for taking the following priority actions, among others:

- Ensuring an adequate body of laws and/or regulations and procedures for the effective monitoring of their armaments and of arms imports and exports, with a view to preventing such arms from getting into the hands of parties engaged in illicit arms trafficking;

- Maintaining an effective system of export, import and shipping licences and end-use/end-user certificates or equivalent mechanisms;

- Providing an adequate number of appropriately trained customs officials to undertake the necessary monitoring of arms exports and imports;

- Intensifying efforts to combat corruption;

- Cooperating with other States at the bilateral, regional and international levels in providing information on customs, traffic and seizure of illicit weapons, and coordinating intelligence work where necessary and possible.

10. The establishment of national rules and administrative procedures for the internal monitoring of arms transfers that can be harmonized at the international and regional levels should be promoted. One example of such harmonization would be the rule ensuring the use of a verifiable end-use certificate to prevent arms from being diverted to clandestine networks.

11. Channels of communication on illicit arms trafficking should be expanded so as to permit exchanges of information that allow every possible manner and method of eliminating it to be explored and so as to facilitate a collective effort on the part of institutions dedicated to arms control, tracking and seizure. It is essential to use appropriate technology for this purpose.

12. The operational aspects of the proposal in resolutions 49/75 G and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 for the collection of illicit small arms must be examined, so that this procedure may prove practical and effective in curbing the illicit traffic in such arms. Colombia feels that, in addition to collecting such weapons, the ultimate goal should be to destroy them.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[1 April 1996]

Illicit transfers of conventional arms in Ecuador

I. BACKGROUND

1. According to National Police statistics, the major crimes committed since 1 January 1995 have included, inter alia, robberies of public and private entities, bombings, escapes, kidnappings and clashes between criminals and the police. Since conventional arms were used to commit these crimes, it can be inferred that illicit arms trafficking is not being effectively controlled. Moreover, special operations carried out by the National Police in connection with drug trafficking resulted in the impoundment of a total of 164 conventional firearms which drug traffickers had used to protect themselves, in most cases without any authorization from the entity responsible for issuing arms permits.

2. Based on these statistics, we are concerned about illicit arms transfers, since they undermine our country's social stability and, what is more, threaten public peace, which the police force has a duty to preserve. Accordingly, and in response to memorandum No. 960560 of 28 February 1996, below is a description of the specific and effective steps which the State has taken to curb and prevent the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms.

II. MEASURES TO CURB THE ILLICIT TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS

3. In Ecuador, the entity responsible for supervising the manufacture, import and export, marketing and possession of weapons, ammunition, explosives and accessories is the Ministry of Defence, which, through the Armed Forces Joint Command, issues to natural and juridical persons the appropriate permits to carry out the above activities.

4. Pursuant to article 8 of the Arms Manufacture, Import, Export and Possession Act, the State strictly prohibits the import, customs clearance, export, transit and transfer of firearms. These activities may be carried out only when they have been authorized by the Ministry of Defence, after the Armed Forces Joint Command has considered and reported on the matter. To enforce this rule, the Armed Forces Joint Command has instituted measures under which persons applying for such authorization will be required to: (a) have their names entered every year in the registers of authorized persons, which are to be kept in the fourth department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, upon submission of their current registration with the relevant chamber; (b) obtain record books, duly numbered and signed by the authorities of the fourth department of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, which will consist of an arms record, an ammunition record and an explosives and accessories record; (c) submit in quintuplicate, to the Ministry of Defence, an application for consideration by the Armed Forces Joint Command, which must indicate the type and quantity of the items, the ports of embarkation and destination, the name of the shipping company, the f.o.b. and c.i.f. value of the items and the purpose of their importation.

5. Our country has issued the above forms and numbered record books, in which importers of conventional arms inform the appropriate authority of the origin, quantity, type and purpose of the items imported, so that the numbered records can be used thereafter to regulate the shipment or sale of the imported arms. Moreover, to obtain these forms or record books, importers will have to enter their names every year in the registers of authorized persons.

6. The foregoing description covers only the adoption of specific measures at the national and international levels in connection with arms importers which the supervisory entity has implemented to prevent the illicit transfer of firearms other than those used by the armed forces and the National Police.

III. MEASURES TO CURB THE USE AND POSSESSION OF ARMS

7. All Ecuadorian nationals and foreigners who wish to import a firearm may do so only if they have been authorized and issued the appropriate permit by the Ministry of Defence, through the diplomatic or consular missions accredited by Ecuador; likewise, no natural or juridical person may, without appropriate authorization, possess or bear any type of firearm, with the logical exception of the armed forces and the National Police.

8. The above-mentioned Act provides that any infraction shall result in the temporary confiscation of the weapons, ammunition, explosives or accessories, as the case may be. Furthermore, article 31 of the Act provides for three to six

years' imprisonment and fines of 5,000 to 10,000 sucres, in addition to the confiscation of the firearm, for violations of the legal regulations in force.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTING THE ILLICIT TRANSFER OF ARMS

9. Part I hereof notes that the higher incidence of crimes committed, including robberies of public and private entities, bombings, escapes, kidnappings and clashes between criminals and the police, involved the use of conventional arms, despite the enactment of regulations intended to prevent the illicit transfer of arms. It is therefore important to ask how criminals, drug dealers and other persons obtain these arms without the appropriate authorization from the entity in charge of issuing permits, and where these persons buy firearms for their personal use. Both questions can be answered in terms of two phenomena: the purchase of weapons on the black market and manufacturers' failure to implement control measures with respect to their customers. Below are some suggested measures to prevent the illegal transfer of arms:

- The States Members of the United Nations should conclude an agreement requiring companies which market weapons to verify the identity, appropriateness and legal validity of the permits to carry out activities in this field presented by their customers, including both natural and juridical persons, through requests addressed to the Government or the entity responsible for regulating and supervising these activities in the country of origin of the customer or customers, in order to help stop the proliferation of the black-market arms trade;

- The States Members of the United Nations should establish and maintain, in their respective territories, ongoing and effective measures to curb the manufacture and possession of homemade firearms, which are as deadly as any other conventional arms;

- The United Nations should promote the conclusion of an international convention dealing specifically with arms smuggling, similar to the one on international drug trafficking, to establish tighter and more rigorous control over the manufacture, distribution and marketing of conventional arms, from the initial stages of their manufacture in countries that are large-scale producers of such arms.

GERMANY

[Original: English]

[15 May 1996]

1. Illicitly transferred weapons should as far as possible be collected where they are discovered. In this connection, however, it would appear necessary to clarify the question of compensation and establish uniform rules. It should not

be possible for anyone to claim compensation from the Government of the country which happens to be the one to collect the weapons transferred.

2. The country concerned should have relevant provisions (for instance, under its external trade, criminal, weapons and police laws).

3. It should have a well-functioning Government control system which is capable of enforcing such laws and is consistent with the rule of law.

4. The German Government supports regional and international cooperation in measures to curb the illicit transfer of weapons.

5. The exchange of information in the competent international export control regimes should be intensified. The Wassenaar Arrangement for the control of the export of conventional weapons, multi-purpose goods and technologies should be established and commence its work as soon as possible.

6. The export control systems and policies should be adapted to one another at the highest possible level, and export policies should be harmonized.

NAMIBIA

[Original: English]

[23 April 1996]

1. Governments through which arms are transferred should intensify the guarding of their borders.

2. Any person(s) found in possession of arms illegally should be dealt with according to the laws of the country.

3. International laws should also be put in place to control the smuggling of arms.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[6 May 1996]

The Government of the Republic of Poland supports international and regional attempts to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms. The Government of the Republic of Poland recognizes the need for the effective cooperation of the States Members of the United Nations to limit illicit arms trafficking as a contribution to the enhancement of regional and international peace and security.

SAUDI ARABIA

[Original: Arabic]

[3 April 1996]

There is no illicit transfer of arms through the territory of Saudi Arabia.